

# INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH IT MODERNIZATION FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ACT

## HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2013*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Health IT Modernization for Underserved Communities Act, legislation that would amend the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HIT EHR) Act to extend Electronic Health Record (EHR) Medicaid incentive payments to all physician assistants (PAs) whose patient volume includes at least 30 percent Medicaid and other financially needy beneficiaries.

The HITECH Act currently offers the incentive payments to physicians and nurse practitioners who provide primary care to the requisite 30 percent threshold of Medicaid recipients, but limits the EHR incentive payments to care provided by PAs in "PA-led" rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers.

Enhanced, quality patient care is the goal of electronic health records, and patients are the ultimate beneficiaries of this legislation. The current HITECH limitation on Medicaid EHR limits the development of EHR systems for Medicaid beneficiaries who are served by PAs. This legislation extends additional support to community health centers and other medical practices in which PAs provide care to a high volume of Medicaid patients.

I have firsthand knowledge of the key role of the Physician Assistant profession and the role the profession serves in bringing primary medical care to rural and other medically underserved communities. Before I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and before I served in the California Assembly, I was a Physician Assistant, and I know that the PA profession adds tremendous value to our health care system. PAs provide quality, team-based, patient-centered medical care and extend the reach of medicine throughout the U.S. It is a cost-efficient approach to providing needed medical care.

There are over 90,000 practicing PAs in the U.S. today. PAs are one of three health care professionals providing primary medical care in the U.S. Although PAs practice in virtually all medical specialties, primary care is the largest area of specialty practice for PAs.

The PA profession is uniquely flexible in adapting and responding to the evolving needs of the U.S. health care system by virtue of comprehensive educational programs that prepare PAs for a career in general medicine and a team-based approach to providing patient-centered medical care.

I am pleased to introduce this important legislation and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Health IT Modernization for Underserved Communities Act.

# COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CALIFORNIA'S HELEN L. DOHERTY

## HON. GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2013*

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, I submit the commemoration of the life of a

great American and dear friend of mine, Ms. Helen L. Doherty, who passed away April 11, 2013.

Helen was a proud member and tireless advocate of the Cherokee Nation and she was a teacher who worked throughout her professional career for children of all ages. She wrote numerous successful grants for education and founded the Kudos for Kids Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the needs of children. She gained the support of many teachers, students and parents for her work with youth in after-school programs. As she continued her work with students even after her retirement.

I knew Helen for many years and during my legislative career, her counsel and wisdom have been invaluable to me. She will be sorely missed by all her friends, loved ones, and her community.

Additionally, the Native American community has lost an unparalleled leader who was constantly engaged in the defense of their heritage and quality of life. We can rest assured her dedication and love for America will continue in the many lives she touched.

# IN HONOR OF PASTOR LORENZO L. HEARD

## HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Man of God, Pastor Lorenzo L. Heard, for twenty years of dedicated civic leadership and pastoral service to the Albany, Georgia community. Pastor Heard will celebrate his twentieth anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Greater Second Mount Olive Baptist Church with an anniversary celebration that will be held on Friday, April 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of Albany State University in Albany, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Pastor Heard is a native of Leesburg, Georgia and a 1981 graduate of Lee County High School. He attended Fort Valley State College, now known as Fort Valley State University and transferred to Morehouse College in Atlanta after two years. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Albany State University.

Pastor Heard began preaching the Word of the Lord at the young age of seventeen. Just three years later, he began his first pastorate at Macedonia Baptist Church in Patterson, Georgia before becoming the pastor of Saint Galilee Baptist Church in Sparta, Georgia in 1987. In 1993, he became pastor of the Greater 2nd Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where he has been called to lead for the past twenty years.

Under Pastor Heard's leadership, more than 2,500 people have joined the congregation of Greater 2nd Mt. Olive Baptist Church. A dynamic and ever faithful pastor, he has taught, mentored, and ministered to every soul who has walked through the doors of the church. Pastor Heard goes a step further by teaching people life skills such as how to manage their finances, and encourages everyone to become active in civic and political engagement to better the community.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ

Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Pastor Heard has led the church in building a strong outreach program for the East Albany community, touching and changing many lives for the better.

Pastor Lorenzo has been repeatedly acknowledged for his outstanding achievements, service and public distinction. He has authored two books, *Stuck in a Storm* and *Missing Your Calm: Discovering God's Purpose for Your Life and Lessons in Money Management*.

Pastor Heard has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, Leslie Parrish Heard, and family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Pastor Lorenzo L. Heard for his life of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

# WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACHIEVES THE STATUS OF A GREAT EXPECTATIONS MODEL SCHOOL

## HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 26, 2013*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Wilson Elementary School of the Coppell Independent School District in Coppell, Texas for earning the distinction of Great Expectations Model School on March 26, 2013.

Great Expectations is a professional development model organization for educators. In order to earn Model School status, ninety to one hundred percent of the teachers must successfully implement one hundred percent of Great Expectations' seventeen classroom practices. The classroom practices are designed to achieve the Great Expectations mission to motivate, inspire, and challenge individuals to achieve excellence in learning and living.

Wilson Elementary achieved Model School status within one school year. The elementary school was committed to adopting the model in an expeditious fashion to enhance the quality of learning for its students. In June, 2012, the educators were trained by the Great Expectations Institute. In September of 2012, Principal Chris Nester submitted the paper work to apply as a Model School and a representative from Great Expectations visited the campus for review. Meanwhile, throughout the school year, the staff attended numerous meetings with the Great Expectations development team, which helped achieve the ranking. Additionally, the Wilson students worked diligently to follow the principles and expectations of the program.

Wilson Elementary is one of only five Model Schools in the entire state of Texas and it is the first in North Texas. Wilson has become a leader in the area, and it is a role model for other campuses to implement Great Expectations in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Wilson Elementary School on its accomplishment as a Great Expectations Model School.